

AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY PARTICIPATION PLAN

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Amended March 2010

AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

PARTICIPATION PLAN

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AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY PARTICIPATION PLAN

A. PURPOSE

The Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) Participation Plan is designed to ensure timely and meaningful input into the metropolitan transportation planning process. The Participation Plan outlines the process to involve all interested parties in the regional transportation planning process and the development and amendment of major transportation studies undertaken as part of ARTS. The overall objective is to provide a process that is proactive, provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement. The Participation Plan replaces the ARTS Public Involvement Policy adopted on October 22, 1998. The update is in response to changes to the metropolitan transportation planning process. This Plan fulfills requirements outlined in the Final Rule for Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning as published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2007 by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The rules were effective on March 16, 2007. The regulations are a result of the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109-59, August 10, 2005).

B. INTRODUCTION

The Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) is the transportation planning process established for the Augusta GA – Aiken SC urbanized area. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 established the requirement for transportation planning in urban areas throughout the country. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, adopted in 1998, and SAFETEA-LU, enacted on August 10, 2005, are the most recent laws extending the federal requirement for transportation planning.

In keeping with the original federal mandate, the ARTS planning process is cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive. The ARTS planning process is cooperative because it brings together local elected officials, state and federal transportation personnel, citizens, and other interested parties to plan and program transportation projects. ARTS participants continuously evaluate transportation needs and plan for long term improvements. The ARTS process is comprehensive because it considers all modes of transportation, including cars, trucks, buses, airplanes, railroads, bicycles, and pedestrians.

The ARTS area includes the urbanized part of the Augusta region, as defined by the U. S. Bureau of Census, plus the area expected to become urbanized over the next twenty years. The study area now encompasses an area that includes all of Richmond County, Georgia, part of Columbia County, Georgia, the Fort Gordon Military Reservation, part of Aiken County, South Carolina, and part of Edgefield County, South Carolina. Incorporated places within the study area include the Georgia cities of Augusta, Hephzibah, Blythe and Grovetown, and the South Carolina cities of Aiken, North Augusta, and Burnetown.

ARTS Committees

The ARTS planning process is guided by four committees: the Policy Committee (PC), the South Carolina Policy Subcommittee, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The Policy Committee meets quarterly and is responsible for prioritizing projects and making final decisions on ARTS planning and programming issues. The committee is comprised of local elected officials, representatives of the Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Transportation, representatives of the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, the ARTS Project Director, and the Chairman of the CAC. The South Carolina Policy Subcommittee serves in an advisory capacity to the Policy Committee, and is responsible for insuring that the South Carolina portion of ARTS is kept up-to-date. The South Carolina Subcommittee is comprised of local elected officials (voting members), and federal, state and local appointed personnel (nonvoting members) representing the South Carolina part of the study area.

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) meets 6-7 times each year, normally in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committee, and is responsible for completing all technical work related to the ARTS planning process. The TCC maintains all of the required transportation related documentation, and serves in an advisory capacity to both the Policy Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee. The TCC is comprised of transportation engineers, planners, and managers from the federal, state, and local levels.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meets 6-7 times each year, normally in conjunction with the TCC, and is responsible for providing citizen input on all aspects of the ARTS planning process. The CAC is comprised of citizens from throughout the urban area. The role of the CAC is crucial to the success of the ARTS transportation planning process.

ARTS Staff

The Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission (ARCPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the ARTS. The Executive Director of the ARCPC is the ARTS Project Director and is responsible for overall supervision of staff work on the planning process. In addition to staff of the ARCPC, employees of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the Aiken County Planning and Development Department (ACPDD), and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) are involved in ARTS planning activities. The ACPDD staff is responsible for planning activities in the Aiken County part of the study area. The LSCOG is responsible for planning and administrative activities for Aiken County Transit. Planners with GDOT and the SCDOT coordinate state-level aspects of any studies, assist with technical analysis, and play a major role in the development and utilization of the ARTS travel demand model.

C. PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

The ARTS Participation Plan encompasses five (5) components: Consultation, Public Access, Public Outreach and Education, Public Input and Evaluation

CONSULTATION

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that major regional transportation documents, including the Participation Plan, are developed in consultation with the general public and other interested parties, and reflect existing and future plans for development of the region. This also involves efforts to identify and include all interested parties in the transportation planning process. The following strategies shall be used to achieve this objective:

Consultation Strategies

1. The MPO shall maintain and update a list of stakeholders, and potential stakeholders, for the purpose of disseminating information about ARTS transportation plans and projects. Special attention shall be given to include members of potentially underserved groups.
2. The MPO has identified and involved groups that are traditionally underserved in the ARTS area in the transportation planning process. The ARTS will create and initiate a method (through census, GIS or other similar means) to identify those communities with high concentrations of minority, low-income, disabled or elderly populations. In addition, the MPO will also identify media that serves these communities and maintain a mailing/contact list to notify these media outlets of all regularly scheduled ARTS committee meetings.
3. The LRTP and TIP shall be prepared and / or amended by the MPO in consultation, as appropriate, with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities in the study area. This consultation shall include, as appropriate, contacts with State, local, Indian Tribe and private agencies responsible for planned growth, economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, freight movements, land use management, natural resources, conservation and historic preservation.

During the development of the ARTS LRTP and TIP the MPO will compare available plans, maps and inventories from state and local resource agencies to determine which resource will be directly or indirectly affected by the plan or program. The consultation process will include the following steps:

- An initial identification of the resources and responsible agencies likely to be affected by the plan or program
 - A review of available information (plans, maps and inventories) derived from agency websites
 - Consult with the responsible agency or agencies regarding the potential impact of the plan or program
 - Document action taken in the consultation process, including acknowledging the receipt of comments and suggestions from resource agencies, for inclusion in the ARTS LRTP and TIP.
4. The LRTP and TIP shall be prepared by the MPO with due consideration of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations (including representatives of the agencies and

organizations) that receive federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation.

5. The procedures for processing administrative modifications and amendments to the LRTP and TIP shall be the same as those published by the Georgia Department of Transportation in December 2009 and included as Appendix G (as amended on March 4, 2010).

PUBLIC ACCESS

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that the general public and other interested parties have timely and convenient access to agendas, meetings, documents and other information related to the regional transportation planning process. The following strategies shall be used to achieve this objective:

Public Access Strategies

1. All ARTS plans and documents shall be made available for the public to review at the ARTS office. Copies and summaries of draft documents also will be available for public review in planning offices and other locations in Richmond, Aiken and Columbia Counties (see Appendix for locations). **Single copies of the current ARTS plans and documents shall be provided free of charge upon request.** Copies of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan shall be distributed to all other participating agencies.
2. Updates to and amendments of the LRTP and TIP will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. A 15-day public review and comment period is allowed in the event of special circumstances. Special circumstances are limited to instances in which time constraints would cause the MPO to miss a deadline for approval of a project or projects (As amended on February 8, 2010).
3. The development of the ARTS Participation Plan, and any future amendments to the plan, will be subject to a 45-day public review and comment period
4. The MPO shall provide reasonable access to technical and policy information used in the development of the LRTP and TIP.
5. The MPO shall provide, upon request and 48-hour notice, assistance to those with special needs, at ARTS meetings.
6. Public meetings will be held at convenient and accessible locations and times. All meetings, public hearings and formal events of the ARTS shall be held in facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities. Generally speaking, meetings will be held at public facilities (see Appendix for locations), on weekday evenings and at locations that are handicapped accessible and served by public transit.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE: To use effective tools and techniques to provide information about the regional transportation plans and issues to the general public and other stakeholders. The desired outcome is that the public provides meaningful input on a transportation plan or issue based upon accurate

and complete information and the potential impact of alternative actions. The following strategies shall be used to achieve this objective:

Public Outreach and Education Strategies

1. All ARTS meeting agendas will be distributed at least seven (7) days in advance to all committee members, area media outlets and other interested parties. Agendas and minutes of meetings will be posted on the ARTS web site.
2. All public meeting notices and notices or public review and comment periods will be published at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting date or the start of the review and comment period. The notices also will be posted on the ARTS web site.
3. The MPO will provide the media with information pertaining to the adoption, revision or amendment of all MPO plans at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the final action.
4. Use the following tools and techniques to inform the media, general public and other interested parties about transportation plans, programs and activities:
 - a. **Press Releases** – Used to announce upcoming meetings and activities and to provide information on specific issues related to transportation planning.
 - b. **Print Display Ads** – Used to advertise public meetings and review and comment periods for transportation plans and projects. Display ads are published in area newspapers and distributed at public facilities throughout the ARTS area.
 - c. **Fact Sheets and Brochures**– Used to provide general information about ARTS plans and programs, such as the LRTP, TIP and Unified Planning Work Program. Fact sheets available in print and electronic format. Brochures will be used to provide summary information about ARTS and its transportation planning activities.
 - d. **Direct Mailings** – Used to advertise public meetings and review and comment periods for transportation plans and projects, or to provide information to a targeted area.
 - e. **ARTS Newsletter** – A quarterly publication used to provide information on transportation issues, projects, documents, contacts and resources.
 - f. **ARTS Website** – Used to display general information about ARTS, copies of major ARTS transportation documents, committee meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, project updates and the ARTS Newsletter. The website is also used to advertise public meetings and review and comment periods for transportation plans and projects.
 - g. **Speaking Engagements** – The MPO shall make staff available to speak to civic groups, neighborhood associations and other interested parties about ARTS transportation planning and projects.

PUBLIC INPUT

OBJECTIVE: To obtain meaningful and diverse input from the general public and other interested parties on regional transportation needs, plans, programs and activities. Inherent in this objective is the MPO's responsibility to provide timely response to public input, to document the input, and to recommend changes / amendments to plans based on public comments and suggestions.

Public Input Strategies

1. **Identify Interested Parties** – An interested party or stakeholder is defined as any person or group that is affected by a transportation plan, program or project, including those who may not be aware that they are affected. Stakeholders may include the general public; environmental; health, neighborhood, citizen and civic organizations; traditionally underserved communities such as people with disabilities, low income, and racial/ethnic minorities, as well as affected public agencies.
2. **Citizens Advisory Committee** – The ARTS Citizens Advisory Committee will continue to be a source of ongoing input on behalf of the general public. Efforts will be made to ensure that the committee membership reflects the diverse needs and interests of the region.
3. **ARTS Committee Meetings** – The ARTS committee meetings will be a regularly-scheduled forum for the discussion of, and updates on regional transportation needs, plans, programs and activities.
4. **ARTS Public Meetings** – ARTS public meetings will be held in conjunction with the update of the LRTP and the TIP, and the development of any special studies related to regional transportation issues.
5. **Comment Cards** – Comment cards will be distributed at public meetings to obtain feedback on regional transportation needs, plans, programs and activities.
6. **Project Steering Committees** – Ad-hoc committees will be used as needed to coordinate and participate in the completion of special regional transportation studies. Committee members will participate in facilitated meetings / workshops, complete surveys and provide input during all phases of the study (e.g. needs assessment, background research, setting goals, objectives and strategies, identifying projects). Project steering committees have been used effectively on past special studies.
7. **Surveys** – Surveys will be used to obtain information from the general public and other stakeholders.
8. **Visualization Techniques** – The MPO will use GIS maps, sketches, drawings and similar tools at public meetings to both convey information and elicit public input about transportation plans and projects.
9. **Project Web Pages** – Project web pages will be used in conjunction with special studies to provide information and elicit input on the planning process, project schedule and project updates. Project web pages may include surveys and comment cards.

EVALUATION OF PARTICIPATION PLAN

OBJECTIVE: To continually evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies, tools and techniques used as part of the Participation Plan. The desired outcomes include increased public involvement in, and awareness of, the regional transportation planning process, and the use of tool and techniques that generate increased public input in regional transportation plans and programs.

Evaluation Strategies – The MPO will use the following mix of quantitative and qualitative criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of public participation tools and techniques used in the regional transportation planning process. The table included as Appendix F summarizes how these criteria apply to the various public participation tools and techniques used by ARTS.

1. Number of phone calls, letters and e-mails received inquiring about specific projects and scheduled public meetings, or requesting more information about the regional transportation planning process.
2. Number of people attending public meetings on the LRTP, TIP or an ARTS special study project.
3. Number of issues / concerns expressed by the Citizens Advisory Committee and the response to, or change resulting from, the issue or concern.
4. Number of newspaper articles / television interviews generated by press releases and other notices to the media.
5. Number or percent of public meeting attendees indicating how they became aware of the meeting (e.g. direct mail, newspaper display ad, television, website, word-of-mouth).
6. Number of "hits" on the ARTS website per month, or number of "hits" on a project specific web page.
7. Number and type of public comments received regarding the LRTP, TIP and special studies projects.
8. Number and type of plan / project changes resulting from public comments.

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF PARTICIPATION PLAN

1. The ARTS Participation Plan shall be adopted by the ARTS Policy Committee only after consultation with interested parties, a 45-day public review and comment period, and the consideration of any comments received from the general public and other interested parties.
2. Amendments to the ARTS Participation Plan shall be adopted by the ARTS Policy Committee only after consultation with interested parties, a 45-day public review and comment period, and the consideration of any comments received from the general public and other interested parties.
3. Appendices to the Participation Plan include supplemental information, such as comments received about the Participation Plan and a list of locations where ARTS plans are available for public review. Updates to the appendices are not subject to the consultation and public review and comment requirements. Revisions to appendices will be distributed to all ARTS committees, applicable federal, state and local agencies and other interested parties.
4. The ARTS Participation Plan, and any amendments or updates to the plan, will be made available at public facilities throughout the study area, and will also be posted on the ARTS Web site.

APPENDIX A

AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

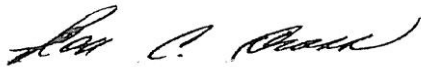
ADOPTION OF THE ARTS PARTICIPATION PLAN

WHEREAS the Governors of Georgia and Sout Carolina have designated the Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) urban area; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to adopt the ARTS Participation Plan in order to comply with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109-59, August 10, 2005).

BE IT RESOLVED that the ARTS Policy Committee adopts the ARTS Participation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ARTS Policy Committee finds that the requirements of laws and regulations regarding urban transportation planning have been met and authorizes its chairman to execute a joint certification of this fact with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration.



Ron C. Cross, Chairman, Policy Committee
Augusta Regional Transportation Study

June 4, 2007
Date

APPENDIX B

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON PARTICIPATION PLAN

1. FHWA recommend deletion of the word “Public” from the title of the document so that it coincides with the requirement of SAFETEA-LU law and regulations for MPOs to develop and implement a Participation Plan for the regional transportation planning process.
2. No other comments received as of May 25, 2007, the end of the 45-day public comment period.

APPENDIX C
ARTS PARTICIPATION PLAN
PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS & REVIEW OF ARTS DOCUMENTS

LOCATIONS FOR POSTING PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

1. Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission -525 Telfair Street, Augusta, GA
2. Aiken County Planning & Development Department -1680 Richland Avenue West -Suite 130, Aiken, SC
3. Columbia County Development Services -Evans Government Complex -630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
4. City of Aiken Planning Department -214 Park Avenue SW, Aiken SC
5. North Augusta Planning and Economic Development - 100 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta, SC
6. Augusta Engineering Department -501 Telfair Street, Augusta, GA
7. Columbia County Engineering Services Department -630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
8. North Augusta Department of Engineering and Public Works -100 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta, SC
9. City of Aiken Public Works / Engineering -214 Park Avenue SW, Aiken SC
10. Aiken County Engineering -828 Richland Avenue West, Aiken, SC
11. Traffic Engineers: City of Augusta -501 Telfair Street, Augusta; Columbia Co. Traffic Engineer - 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, GA
12. Burnetown Town Hall- 3144 Augusta Road, Burnetown, SC
13. GA DOT Augusta Area Engineer's Office -4260 Frontage Road, Augusta, GA
14. SC DOT Area Engineer -1750 Park Avenue East, Aiken, SC
15. Grovetown City Hall – 103 Old Wrightsboro Road, Grovetown, GA
16. Fort Gordon - Woodworth Library, Bldg. 33500, Rice Road, Fort Gordon, GA
17. Augusta Public Transit –1535 Fenwick Street, Augusta, GA

DOCUMENT LOCATIONS (DRAFT & FINAL DOCUMENTS)

1. Planning Offices (Augusta, North Augusta, Aiken, Aiken County, Columbia County)
2. Public Libraries (Augusta, North Augusta, Aiken, Columbia County)
3. Burnetown Town Hall- 3144 Augusta Road, Burnetown, SC
4. Grovetown City Hall – 103 Old Wrightsboro Road, Grovetown, GA
5. Hephzibah City Hall – 2538 Highway 88, Hephzibah, GA
6. Blythe City Hall – 294 Church Street, Blythe, GA
7. GA DOT Area Engineer's Office -Frontage Road
8. SC DOT Area Engineer -1750 Park Avenue East, Aiken, SC
9. Fort Gordon - Woodworth Library, Bldg. 33500, Rice Road, Fort Gordon, GA
10. Augusta Public Transit –1535 Fenwick Street, Augusta, GA
11. Lower Savannah Council of Governments - 2748 Wagener Road, Aiken, SC

APPENDIX D
ART PARTICIPATION PLAN
EVALUATION CRITERIA AND RELATED TOOLS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Public Participation Tool	Evaluation Criteria	Performance Goal(s)	Methods to Meet Goal(s)
Public Meetings	Calls, letters, and e-mails; number of attendees	Minimum _ people per meeting	Schedule meetings at convenient times and accessible locations. Use other public involvement tools to increase awareness of meetings
Display Ad	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 15% of meeting attendees/survey respondents that indicated that they saw the ad.	Pursue publication in a prominent location of the paper. Increase the size or modify the layout to make ads more visible.
E-mail Announcements /Internet Message Boards	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 5% of meeting attendees/survey respondents indicated that they saw the announcement.	Increase e-mail list by advertising the availability of e-mail announcements using other public involvement tools.
Direct Mailings	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 15% of meeting attendees/survey respondents that indicated that they received the mailing.	Increase/decrease mailing to more accurately target affected areas.
Posters and Flyers	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of persons that it reached.	Minimum of 15% meeting attendees/survey respondents indicated they saw the poster.	Increase distribution to common areas where posters will be more visible to the general public.
Press Releases	Calls, letters, e-mails from media and others	No standard. Press release format may be modified based on specific comments received.	Prepare and distribute press releases as necessary to advertise ARTS meetings, review and comment periods, and milestones in specific projects.
ARTS Citizen Advisory Committee	Calls, letters, etc.; Attendance	N/A These committees are part of most planning studies. Elected officials in the study area appoint members.	The MPO staff and any consultant staff should encourage appointed members to attend meetings.

Public Participation Tool	Evaluation Criteria	Performance Goal(s)	Methods to Meet Goal(s)
ARTS Newsletter (Hard Copy)	Number of people on mailing list	Minimum 10% increase in size of mailing list per program year.	Distribute at ARTS public meetings, other public meetings and at public facilities throughout the region.
ARTS Transportation Planning Web Site	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of 'hits' (visits) on the web site	Minimum of 30 hits per month with a 5% increase in hits per quarter.	Use other public involvement tools, such as the ARTS newsletter, to increase advertisement of the web site.
Project Specific web pages.	Calls, letters, and e-mails.; Number of 'hits' (visits) on the web site	Minimum of 20 hits per month. Increase at least 10% over the life of the project. Expectation may be higher depending on the type and size of the special study.	Use other public involvement tools to increase advertisement of the web site.
Fact Sheets	Calls, letters, etc.; Number of persons reached.	Positive comments	
Surveys	Calls, letters, etc.; Number of responses	60% of contacted persons participate in the survey OR 20% of mail recipients return the survey.	Encourage responses by explaining the importance of receiving feedback. Offer incentives for returning surveys.
Paticipation Plan	No measure- PP should reflect the policies and practices of the MPO		Update at least every 3 years to incorporate the improvement strategies resulting from public involvement evaluations.
Identify stakeholders			Create a database of different groups that would be affected by certain projects.

APPENDIX E
ART PARTICIPATION PLAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CHECKLIST:
TOOLS USED IN COMPLETING SPECIAL STUDIES

Project: _____

Date: _____

Public Participation Tool	Description	Method Used Yes / No
Transportation Planning web site	Public web site for dissemination of information	
Transportation Planning Feedback Database	Database that compiles feedback for evaluation	
Identify Interested Parties or Stakeholders	Method used to identify different groups that would be affected by a project	
Display Ad	Newspaper or print advertisements	
Direct Mailings	Used to more accurately target affected areas.	
Press Releases	Press releases to announce meetings, projects, et cetera.	
TV Message Boards	Government access channel announcement board.	
Project specific web sites	For use with other tools to provide detailed information	
Citizen Advisory Committee	Committee which is part of most planning studies.	
Small Group Meetings	Meetings that are held at the request of affected groups.	
E-mail Announcements	Used with other tools to increase public announcements	
Public Hearings	Used for the adoption of documents such as the TIP or UPWP.	
Comment Forms	Used to solicit public feedback and used for evaluation purposes.	
Surveys	Used to solicit public feedback on specific issues	
Posters and Flyers	Distributed in public areas to increase visibility	
Visualization Techniques	Drawing/sketches, aerial photography, pictures, "visual choice" surveys	
Public information	Available in an electronically accessible format (e.g. PDF documents)	
Public meetings	Held at convenient and accessible locations and times.	

APPENDIX F
ART PARTICIPATION PLAN

LISTS OF RESOURCE AGENCIES AND CONSULTATION CONTACTS

**STATE RESOURCE AGENCIES
SOUTH CAROLINA**

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>	<u>INFORMATION AVAILABLE</u>
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control	2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 898-3432	http://www.scdhec.gov/	Data, maps and regulations on wide range of environmental factors
DHEC, Office of Environmental Quality Control Bureau of Air Quality	2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 898-4123	http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/baq/about.aspx	Data, maps and regulations on air quality
DHEC, Office of Environmental Quality Control Bureau of Water	2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 898-4300	http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/	Data, maps and regulations on water quality
DHEC, Office of Environmental Quality Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management	Main Office 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, SC	(843) 953-0200	http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/	Data, maps and regulations on ocean & coastal resources
DHEC, Office of Environmental Quality Control Bureau of Land and Waste Management	2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201	803) 896-4000	http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/lwm/index.html	Data, maps and regulations on hazardous waste sites, USTs, Superfund sites, and Brownsfield sites
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	Rembert C. Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201	General Information (803) 734-9100	http://www.dnr.sc.gov/index.html	Watershed & River Corridor Planning
South Carolina Department of Archives and History	8301 Parklane Road Columbia, SC 29223	(803) 896-6100	http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/ http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/histrcpl.htm	List of National Register Properties, archeological sites, statewide survey of historic properties
South Carolina Department of Transportation	955 Park Street, PO Box 191 Columbia, SC, 29202-0191	(803) 737-2314	http://www.scdot.org/default.shtml	Transportation plans, multimodal transpotation
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism	1205 Pendleton St Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 734-0156	http://www.discoverouthcarolina.com/	Maps and information on state parks
South Carolina Department of Commerce	1201 Main Street Suite 1600 Columbia, SC 29201-3200	(803) 737-0400	http://www.sccommerce.com/	Community profiles, labor market information, available commercial buildins & sites.
South Carolina Forestry Commission	5500 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212	803-896-8800	http://www.state.sc.us/forest/	Maps & information on forest management and enforcement
South Carolina Jobs - Economic Development Authority	1201 Main Street, Suite 1600 Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 737-0268	http://www.scjeda.net/	Project financing for economic development projects
South Carolina State Ports Authority	176 Concord Street Charleston, SC 29401	(843)723-8651	http://www.port-of-charleston.com/	Sattistics about type/ amount of freight, trade and intermodal transportation services
South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority	300-C Outlet Pointe Blvd, Columbia, SC 29210	(803) 896-9001	http://www.sha.state.sc.us/	Information on financing and services for affordable housing projects
Chamber of Commerce - North Augusta Roni Geiselart	302 Georgia Avenue North Augusta, SC 29841	803-279-2523	chamber@northaugusta.net	Maps, information on tourism, environment, business, manufacturing
Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce Cindy DeLaney	121 Richland Avenue E Aiken, SC 29802	803-641-1111	chamber@aikenchamber.net	Maps, information on tourism, environment, business, manufacturing
Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce	416 Calhoun Street Johnston, SC 29832	803-275-0010	infor@edgefieldcountychamber.org	Maps, information on tourism, environment, business, manufacturing

**STATE RESOURCE AGENCIES
GEORGIA**

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>	<u>INFORMATION AVAILABLE</u>
Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division	2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Suite 1152, East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334	800-241-4113	http://www.gaepd.org	Data, maps and regulations on air quality
Georgia Department of Transportation	One Georgia Center 600 W Peachtree St NW Atlanta, GA 30308, US		www.dot.ga.gov	Transportation plans, multimodal transpotation
Georgia Department of Transportation Air Quality Branch	One Georgia Center 600 W Peachtree St NW Atlanta, GA 30308, US	404-657-6698	www.dot.ga.gov/DOT/plan-prog/planning/aq/	Data, maps and regulations on congestion mitigation and air quality improvement
Georgia Department of Transportation Office of Intermodal Programs	One Georgia Center 600 W Peachtree St NW Atlanta, GA 30308, US	404-651-9200	www.dot.ga.gov/	Data, maps and regulations on Georgia's aviation, rail, transit,and waterways
Georgia Government		800-496-7442	www.georgia.gov	Data, information on state government, tourism, transzportation, employment
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division	254 Washington Street SW Ground Level Atlanta, GA 30324	404-656-2840	www.gashpo.org	Data and information on historic and archeological sites
Georgia Department of Parks and Historic Sites	2 MLK Jr. Dr., Suite 1352 East Atlanta, GA 30334	800-864-7275	www.gastateparks.org/	Maps and information on state parks
Georgia Forestry Commission	2615 Tobacco Road Hephzibah , GA 30815	706-771-4922	richmondunit@gfc.state.ga.us	Maps & information on forest management and enforcement

OTHER RESOURCE AGENCIES

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>WEBSITE / EMAIL</u>	<u>INFORMATION AVAILABLE</u>
Walton Options for Independent Living	411 15th Street Augusta, GA 30901	706-724-6262		Information on the Needs of the Disabled
Savannah Riverkeepers Frank Carl	1226 River Ridge Road Augusta, GA 30909	706-364-5253	Frank.Carl@savannahriverkeeper.org www.savannahriverkeeper.org	Regulations and information on river / water pollution
CSRA Land Trust Hazel Langrail	PO Box 148 Augusta, GA 30903	706-312-5263	www.csrlt.org/aboutus.htm info@csrlt.org	Data, maps and regulations on preserving wetlands, forests and open spaces
Briar Creek Soil and Water Gary McFerlin	501 Greene Street, Ste. 309 Augusta, GA 30901	706-724-2247	cread.brown@ga.usda.gov	Data, maps, and regulations for soil conservation, waterways, wetlands
Sierra Club - The Savannah River Group Sam Booher	4387 Rosewll Drive Martinez, GA 30907	706-863-2324	www.georgia.sierraclub.org/srg sbooher@aol.com	Data, information on protectioning the environment
Historic Augusta Eric Montgomery	415 Seventh Street Augusta, GA 30903	706-724-0436	erick@historicaugusta.org	Data, maps and information on historic resources
CSRA Regional Commission Shontrell Baskin	3023 Riverwatch Parkway, Ste A Augusta, GA 30907-2016	706-210-2000 x 130	www.csrarc.ga.gov sbaskin@csrarc.ga.gov	Data, maps and information on transportation, transit, planning, environmental & landuse management.
Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce Mandi Keown	701 Greene Street Augusta GA 30903	706-821-1308	www.augustachamber.net mkeown@augustagausa.com	Maps, information on tourism, environment, business, manufacturing
Chamber of Commerce - Columbia County Tammy Shepherd	4424 Evans to Locks Road Evans, GA 30809	803-651-0018	Tammy@columbiacountychamber.com	Maps, information on tourism, environment, business, manufacturing
Destination 20/20 Task Force Nan Shaefer	701 Greene Street Augusta GA 30903	706-821-1300	nshaefer@augustagausa.com	Maps, information on environment, business, cultural
Augusta Housing Authority	1425 Walton Way P. O. Box 3246 Augusta, GA 30903	706-312-3112	www.augustapha.org	
CSRA Area Agency on Aging Jeannette Cumings	3023 Riverwatch Parkway, Ste A Augusta, GA 30907	706-210-2000	www.csrarc.org	
Easter Seals of East Georgia	1500 Wrightsboro Road Augusta, GA 30904	706-667-9695		

Appendix G

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Process

The federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the Final Rule to revise the Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning regulations incorporating changes from the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users on February 14, 2007 with an effective date of March 16, 2007. The revised regulations clearly define administrative modifications and amendments as actions to update plans and programs. 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 450.104 defines administrative modifications and amendments as follows:

- Administrative modification "means a minor revision to a long-range statewide or metropolitan transportation plan, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that includes minor changes to project/project phase costs, minor changes to funding sources of previously-included projects, and minor changes to project/project phase initiation dates. Administrative Modification is a revision that does not require public review and comment, redemonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity Determination (in nonattainment and maintenance areas)."
- Amendment "means a revision to a long-range statewide or metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or STIP that involves a major change to a project included in a metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or STIP, including the addition or deletion of a project or major change in project cost, project/project phase initiation dates, or a major change in design concept or design scope (e.g.. changing project termini or the number of through traffic lanes). Changes to projects that are included only for illustrative purposes do not require an amendment. An amendment is a revision that requires public review and comment, redemonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination (for metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs involving "non-exempt" projects in nonattainment and maintenance areas). In the context of a long-range statewide transportation plan, an amendment is a revision approved by the State in accordance with its public involvement process."

The following procedures have been developed for processing administrative modifications and amendments to the STIP and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) TIPs and Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs). Processes described below detail procedures that are to be used to update an existing approved STIP or TIP and associated plan, if applicable. A key element of the amendment process is to assure that funding balances are maintained.

Administrative Modification

The following actions are eligible as Administrative Modifications to the STIP/TIP'/LRTP:

- A. Revise a project description without changing the project scope, conflicting with the environmental document or changing the conformity finding in nonattainment and maintenance areas (less than 10% change in project termini). This change would not alter the original project intent.

- B. Splitting or combining projects.
- C. Federal funding category change.
- D. Minor changes in expenditures for transit projects.
- E. Roadway project phases may have a cost increase less than \$2,000,000 or 20% of the amount to be authorized. The 20% scenario amount may not exceed \$10,000,000.
- F. Shifting projects within the 4-year STIP as long as the subsequent annual draft STIP was submitted prior to September 30.
- G. Projects may be funded from lump sum banks as long as they are consistent with category definitions.

An administrative modification can be processed in accordance with these procedures provided that:

- 1. It does not affect the air quality conformity determination.
- 2. It does not impact financial constraint.
- 3. It does not require public review and comment.

The administrative modification process consists of a monthly list of notifications from GDOT to all involved parties, with change summaries sent on a monthly basis to the FHWA and FTA by the GDOT.

The GDOT will submit quarterly reports detailing projects drawn from each lump sum bank with remaining balance to the FHWA.

Amendment

The following actions are eligible as Amendments to the STIP/TIP/LRTP:

- A. Addition or deletion of a project.
- B. Addition or deletion of a phase of a project.
- C. Roadway project phases that increase in cost over the thresholds described in the Administrative Modification section.
- D. Addition of an annual TIP.
- E. Major change to scope of work of an existing project. A major change would be any change that alters the original intent i.e. a change in the number of through lanes or a change in termini of more than 10 percent.

- F. Shifting projects within the 4-year STIP which require re-demonstration of fiscal constraint or when the subsequent annual draft STIP was not submitted prior to September 30. (See Administrative Modification item F.)

Amendments to the STIP / TIP / LRTP will be developed in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. This requires public review and comment and responses to all comments, either individually or in summary form. For amendments in MPO areas, the public review process should be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Participation Plan. The GDOT will assure that the amendment process and the public involvement procedures have been followed. Cost changes made to the second, third and fourth years of the STIP will be balanced during the STIP yearly update process. All amendments should be approved by FHWA and/or FTA.

Notes:

1. The date a TIP becomes effective is when the Governor or his designee approves it. For nonattainment and maintenance areas, the effective date of the TIP is based on the date of U.S. Department of Transportation's positive finding of conformity.
2. The date the STIP becomes effective is when FHWA and FTA approve it.
3. The STIP is developed on the state fiscal year which is July 1 - June 30.
4. Funds for cost increases will come from those set aside in the STIP financial plan by the GDOT for modifications and cost increases. Fiscal Constraint will be maintained in the STIP at all times.